

Air Force District of Washington, Chief Smith served as senior adviser to the 844th communications group, which is made up of more than 900 military personnel. In this highly important and visible position, he helped to provide cyber support to the President of the United States and also to other senior officials at the Pentagon.

During his 28 years of service to our country, Chief Smith's commitment and excellence as an outstanding airman did not go unnoticed. In 1989, he was recognized as the Air Mobility Command Student of the Year. In 2001 and 2003, Chief Smith earned the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Information Management Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award. In 2005, he was named Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and Air Force Communications and Information Professional of the Year.

John Rogers, the deputy director of the 844th Communications Group, summed up Chief Smith's career by saying: "He took care of our airmen and he was phenomenal. He embodied our core value of service before self."

Chief Master Sergeant Smith, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District, on behalf of the Congress of the United States, thank you for your admirable service to our country. The motto of the Air Force is "Aim High . . . Fly-Fight-Win." Chief Smith, throughout your career, you have aimed high and truly represented the best of the U.S. Air Force, and you have represented the best of our shared hometown of Flint, Michigan.

On behalf of my constituents in the Fifth Congressional District and on behalf of my colleagues here in Congress, congratulations to you on your outstanding career in the Air Force and your outstanding service to our country.

ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, the crisis unfolding in Iraq is deeply troubling to the American people. The rapid fall of several cities in Iraq to terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIS, has brought the militant group dangerously closer to establishing a caliphate that spans the northern sections of Syria and Iraq.

ISIS has a reputation for brutality, including summary executions, beheadings, and, in some cases, crucifixions. The implications of the rise of ISIS for Iraq's ancient Christian community, along with its other religious minorities, is troubling.

For years we have witnessed the decline of Iraq's Christian community. Thousands have fled in the face of targeted violence. Those who remained relocated to Mosul and the Nineveh

plains. These areas were some of the last remaining havens for this beleaguered and brutalized Christian community in Iraq. In fact, Archbishop Warda, the Chaldean Diocese of Erbil, indicated this past Sunday that for the first time in 1,600 years there was no mass in Mosul.

The thousands who fled Mosul face displacement, imminent danger, and a growing humanitarian nightmare, including access to clean water, food, fuel, and electricity.

I urge the administration to engage with the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to prioritize security and support for these vulnerable populations and provide emergency humanitarian assistance to those brutalized communities.

If nothing is done, we will most certainly witness the annihilation of an ancient faith community. I call on our international community to stand together to protect the natural rights of being persecuted by ISIS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Michael Lotker, Temple Ner Ami, Camarillo, California, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, You sustain us and inspire us. Yours is the unity connecting all things created by You and directing us to serve You in unity of purpose, spirit, and strength. Bless us with the resources to do Your work.

The very name of this Nation, the United States, and the very name of this institution, the Congress, underlines the power and indeed the holiness of such unity.

I therefore humbly request Your most ancient blessing for the people of this great Nation and for their elected Representatives.

"May God bless you and protect you. May God's light shine upon you and may God be gracious to you. May God's face be lifted before you and may God grant you peace."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MARCHANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI MICHAEL LOTKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to welcome a very good friend, Rabbi Michael Lotker, to be the guest chaplain of the House of Representatives today.

Rabbi Lotker is a teacher and a leader in Ventura County. He is the rabbi emeritus at Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo, California; the rabbi of Congregation Khilat HaAloneem in Ojai, California; and the community rabbi and teacher for the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. He is also a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Board of Rabbis of Southern California.

In addition to his work as a rabbi, Rabbi Lotker is an author and a physicist, with a focus on researching alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal.

Known for his quick-witted humor, Rabbi Lotker writes parody songs for each of the Jewish holidays throughout the year.

For his spiritual leadership and thoughtful words, I would like to thank Rabbi Lotker for leading us in prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONSEQUENCES OF PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO ENFORCE THE LAW

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the current situation on our southern border is a direct result of this administration's failure to enforce our laws.

Since October, 47,000 unaccompanied women and children have illegally entered the U.S. By year's end, 90,000 minors will have illegally crossed into our country. When apprehended, the majority of those questioned say they came